



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives*  
SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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## **SBA DISASTER LOANS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DISASTER DECLARATION**

**ATLANTA** - The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that federal economic injury loans are available to small businesses, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes located in the State of South Carolina as a result of hail storms that occurred on May 11–20, 2008.

These loans are available in the following counties: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Edgefield, Greenwood, Hampton, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg and Saluda in the State of South Carolina.

“When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to assist small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations affected by the same disaster,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Under this declaration, the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to farm-related and nonfarm-related small business concerns, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA.

Eligible small businesses and non-profit organizations may qualify for loans up to \$2 million. These loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant’s financial condition. Under this disaster declaration, the SBA cannot provide loans to agricultural producers.

Disaster victims should contact the SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT or by emailing our customer service center at [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Victims may visit SBA’s secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

**Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than April 15, 2009.**

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*For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).*